

reduction are all based on theoretical projections. There are inherent uncertainties in making 10 year budget projections; however, the President's Budget creates a \$1 trillion reserve over the same amount of time. This can be used to aid in Medicare and Social Security modernization. In all, the tax cut will only amount to one quarter of the projected surplus, leaving room for program maintenance, growth and unexpected situations. I am proud that Congress has made protecting Social Security its highest priority with the passage of H.R. 2, the Social Security and Medicare Lock-Box Act. Now, 100 percent of the Social Security surplus cannot be touched for other government spending. President Bush has pledged to keep the promises that America has made to its senior citizens by signing this bill.

We must eliminate the death tax—a major reason for the dissolution of family-owned small businesses, farms and ranches upon the death of the owner. Originally enacted as a temporary tax to raise funds for national security emergencies, this tax first helped create our Navy in 1797 and fund the Civil and Spanish-American wars. In 1916, the tax was made permanent. Once the current \$650,000 threshold is met, the tax consumes up to 55 percent of the remaining estate. This money will have already been taxed first as income, then possibly as capital gains or property. The impact on Eastern Washington farmers and ranchers is particularly severe. In order to be viable, even the smallest farm operation must have about \$500,000 tied up in equipment. If the farmer owns the land, the value is at least \$1.5 million. On paper, this farmer is worth \$2 million or more. This makes it difficult for the farmer to pass his property and business on to his family after death. The same is true for small businesses, where the owner's children are not the only ones affected. Those who lose their jobs when the business is partitioned and sold face even more dire circumstances. I support the legislation that would phase-out the death tax over ten years. Defeated only by President Clinton's veto during the last Congress, I hope it can pass this year.

This tax package is right for our country. It meets our needs and obligations for the future while helping all of Americans who pay taxes. It is becoming more and more evident that we need to do something to strengthen the economy. Tax relief is needed now.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE J.W. SUMMERS

HON. JIM TURNER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of Judge J.W. Summers, a leader in the Texas judicial system and a fine man who dedicated his life to public service.

Judge Summers had something that many in this chamber undoubtedly envy—an unblemished political career, in which he never suffered a defeat in his various races for public office. But it wasn't his winning streak that made him stand out, but rather it was his rep-

utation for integrity and impartiality in the administration of justice that earned him the respect and admiration of all of us who knew him.

Judge Summers was destined for leadership from his early years, when he graduated from Rusk High School as an Eagle Scout and valedictorian of his class. Judge Summers served bravely in the Navy during World War II, and graduated with honors from a great institution of higher learning—the University of Texas in Austin.

But Judge Summers didn't stay in Austin—he came back to his roots in Rusk. After several years of private practice, he served as city attorney, county attorney, and county judge of Cherokee County for eight years.

Judge Summers will be remembered for his many successes as County Judge of Cherokee County. Every year of his administration, Judge Summers won a top financial rating for the county. He paid off remaining debt on the county courthouse, oversaw the construction of the Cherokee County Agricultural Annex Building, and secured the development of many State Farm-to-Market roads, as well as the US Highway 69 stretch from Rusk to Jacksonville.

From 1957 to 1978 he served as District Judge for the Second Judicial District. After 21 years in the job, he continued his service as Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals for the 12th Supreme Judicial District of Texas, a position he held until 1989.

Judge Summers and his wife Inez were active members of their community, participating in the First United Methodist Church in Rusk, where each served as chairman of the Administrative Council. Judge Summers was also president of the Kiwanis Club and a member of Euclid Lodge Number 45. Judge Summers passed away on November 26, 2000.

Our prayers are with Mrs. Summers, the couples' children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and their friends and family members who will share their grief—and their memories—in this time of sadness.

TRIBAL COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY LOAN FORGIVENESS ACT

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons I am here today as a member of Congress is that I was inspired by some excellent professors as a college student.

These professors taught me new ways of looking at the world, and kindled an excitement about learning that still burns today. Where all of my professors helped me acquire knowledge common to liberal arts students of my era, these select few not only taught me, but also ignited my passion for public service.

This nation is blessed with many excellent professors, but one sector of higher education has a harder time than others attracting the best and the brightest. This sector is the tribal college and university system.

The average salary for teachers at tribal colleges and universities is approximately

\$25,000—one-half that of the salary of a teacher at a state college or university.

A sad consequence of these low salaries is that tribal colleges and universities are a training ground for new teachers to get their feet wet; they make short stops before moving on to better paying jobs at other colleges and universities. As a result, the students suffer from both a lack of good teachers and good curriculum.

The Tribal College and University Loan Forgiveness Act gives tribal colleges and universities a tool to attract and keep excellent teachers despite the salary gap.

By providing loan forgiveness, tribal colleges and universities can bring something additional to the negotiation table. Teachers who commit to working in a tribal college or university that have Direct, Perkins, or Guaranteed Loans that are not in default, are eligible for loan forgiveness for up to five years. Total loan forgiveness will be provided for up to \$15,000 in the aggregate of the loans the student currently has.

Tribal colleges and universities, teachers, and students will all benefit from this bill. Furthermore, the Native American communities who send their tribal members to these institutions also benefit.

Tribal colleges and universities not only prepare students for jobs both on and off the reservations, but they also offer programs to the local communities such as adult education, local economic development, and remedial and high school equivalency programs.

The passage of this bill, with bipartisan support, will help these institutions continue their work of not only educating, but bringing out the very best of tribal students and communities.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF COMBATTING TUBERCULOSIS

SPEECH OF

HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Texas, Mr. REYES, for introducing this important resolution.

Dr. David Heymann of the World Health Organization once described tuberculosis as "a disease once thought to be under control, which has returned with a vengeance to kill 1.5 million people a year."

TB was once the leading cause of death in the United States. In the 1940s, scientists discovered drugs that would treat TB, and infection rates began to decline. Since that time, however, infection rates both in the U.S. and abroad have increased dramatically. Today, one third of the world's population has a latent TB infection. These increases have not gone unnoticed by international organizations. In fact, in 1993, the World Health Organization declared tuberculosis a global emergency.

These increases in infection rates are due to a number of causes. Increases in HIV/AIDS infection rates are accelerating the spread of TB. In addition, poorly supervised or incomplete treatment threatens to make TB incurable as multidrug resistant TB cases rise.

This problem is particularly serious in underdeveloped countries. A total of 22 countries are home to 80 percent of TB cases. Tuberculosis is particularly prevalent in India, Southeast Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Russia, and parts of Latin America. The problem with TB poses a long term threat to global health. It is estimated that, if efforts to fight TB are not strengthened, 3 5 million people will die of the disease in the next 20 years.

H. Res. 67 addresses many of these problems. The bill recognizes the importance of combating TB on a worldwide basis and acknowledges the severe impact that TB has on minority populations in the US. By passing the resolution, we are recognizing the importance of substantially increasing US investment in international TB control. The bill also emphasizes the importance of efforts to eliminate TB in our own nation.

It is my hope that by passing this resolution, Congress will make a commitment to fighting TB both on the national and global level.

CELEBRATING GREEK
INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 180th anniversary of Greek Independence. Almost two centuries ago this month, the Greeks rose up against the Ottoman Empire to establish a modern Greek state. Greeks and Greek Americans everywhere can look back proudly on the accomplishments of their people over the last 180 years. But Americans also owe a large debt to Greece for its friendship and democratic traditions. All Americans should take time on this anniversary to reflect on the shared values, traditions and history of the United States and the Hellenic Republic.

When our founding fathers in this country sought inspiration for our democracy, they looked back to the republics of ancient Greece. The Greeks, likewise, looked to the United States for inspiration and support as they sought to establish their own independent nation. Since that time, many Greeks came to the United States in search of freedom and opportunity—so many, that for a time in the early twentieth century, one out of every four young Greek men came to the United States. Their contributions have been felt in the Arts, the Sciences, and government.

Greece itself has also been a true friend of the United States. From Greece's valiant resistance of Nazi Germany in World War Two, to her efforts supporting the world community in the Gulf War, Greece has stood beside the United States. This cooperation is based not just on shared interests, but on the stronger bond of shared values. And when these values have been threatened, the Greek nation has stepped forward to defend these values, even when it means risking the lives of her sons and daughters.

I mention this because the United States should not take this commitment lightly. Just

as we here in America hesitate before we send our troops in harm's way, so do other democracies. Yet, over the last century, Greece has stood by the United States. The United States needs to stand by Greece.

As a mature democracy, Greece is our strongest ally in a region in turmoil. "While relations have improved between Greece and Turkey, real issues remain between these two historic antagonists. Cyprus, the Aegean Islands, and the treatment of minorities in Turkey are all issues that demand resolution. This administration must compel the Turkish government to negotiate in good faith on these contentious issues. I call upon President Bush to maintain the commitment to Greece embraced by his predecessors, and insist that Turkey demonstrate that it will work to build a new relationship with Greece.

THE HISTORIC HOMEOWNERSHIP
ASSISTANCE ACT

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, all across America, in the small towns and great cities of this country, our heritage as a nation—the physical evidence of our past—is at risk. In virtually every corner of this land, homes in which grandparents and parents grew up, communities and neighborhoods that nurtured vibrant families, schools that were good places to learn and churches and synagogues that were filled on days of prayer, have suffered the ravages of abandonment and decay.

In the decade from 1980 to 1990, Chicago lost 41,000 housing units through abandonment, Philadelphia 10,000, and St. Louis 7,000. The story in our older small communities has been the same, and the trend continues. It is important to understand that it is not just the buildings we are losing. It is the sense of our past, the vitality of our communities and the shared values of those precious places.

We need not stand hopelessly by as passive witnesses to the loss of these irreplaceable historic resources. We can act, and to that end I am introducing today with a bipartisan group of my colleagues the Historic Homeownership Assistance Act.

This legislation is almost identical to legislation introduced in the 106th Congress as H.R. 1172, which enjoyed the broad bipartisan support of 225 cosponsors. It is patterned after the existing Historic Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit. That legislation has been enormously successful in stimulating private investment in the rehabilitation of buildings of historic importance all across the country. Through its use we have been able to save and re-use a rich and diverse array of historic buildings and landmarks such as Union Station in Washington, DC.; the Fox Paper Mills, a mixed-used project that was once derelict in Appleton, WI; and the Rosa True School, an eight-unit low/moderate income rental project in a historic building in Portland, Maine. In my own State of Florida, since 1974, the existing Historic Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit

has resulted in over 325 rehabilitation projects, leveraging more than \$238 million in private investment. These projects range from the restoration of art deco hotels in historic Miami Beach, bringing economic rebirth to this once decaying area, to the development of multi-family housing in the Springfield Historic District in Jacksonville.

The legislation that I am introducing today builds on the familiar structure of the existing tax credit but with a different focus. It is designed to empower the one major constituency that has been barred from using the existing credit—homeowners. Only those persons who rehabilitate or purchase a newly rehabilitated home and occupy it as their principal residence would be entitled to the credit that this legislation would create. There would be no passive losses, no tax shelters, and no syndications under this bill.

Like the existing investment credit, the bill would provide a credit to homeowners equal to 20 percent of the qualified rehabilitation expenditures made on an eligible building that is used as a principal residence by the owner. Eligible buildings would be those that are listed on the National Register of Historic Register Historic Districts or in nationally certified state or local historic districts or are individually listed on a nationally certified state or local register. As is the case with the existing credit, the rehabilitation work would have to be performed in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's standards for rehabilitation, although the bill would clarify the directive that the standards be interpreted in a manner that takes into consideration economic and technical feasibility.

The bill also makes provision for lower-income home buyers who may not have sufficient federal income tax liability to use a tax credit. It would permit such persons to receive a historic rehabilitation mortgage credit certificate which they can use with their bank to obtain a lower interest rate on their mortgage. The legislation also permits home buyers in distressed areas to use the certificate to lower their down payment.

The credit would be available for condominiums and co-ops, as well as single-family buildings. If a building were to be rehabilitated by a developer for sale to a homeowner, the credit would pass through to the homeowner. Since one purpose of the bill is to provide incentives for middle-income and more affluent families to return to older towns and cities, the bill does not discriminate among taxpayers on the basis of income. It does, however, impose a cap of \$40,000 on the amount of credit which may be taken for a principal residence.

The Historic Homeownership Assistance Act will make ownership of a rehabilitated older home more affordable for homeowners of modest incomes. It will encourage more affluent families to claim a stake in older towns and neighborhoods. It affords fiscally stressed cities and towns a way to put abandoned buildings back on the tax roles, while strengthening their income and sales tax bases. It offers developers, realtors, and homebuilders a new realm of economic opportunity in revitalizing decaying buildings.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is no panacea. Although its goals are great, its reach will be modest. But it can make a difference, and an